

50. These software interfaces generally employ command bars and pop-down menus to allow the user to make selections and input commands.

While the invention has been described in terms of a single preferred embodiment, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention can be practiced with modification within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A simulator training system comprising:
a computer controlled system for providing realistic user interface for a simulated device to present a training scenario for at least one trainee, said computer controlled system being responsive to actions of said at least one trainee during a training scenario to generate outputs as a consequence of those actions;
at least one training position allowing said at least one trainee to view the training scenario and preform actions in response to the training scenario; and
an instructor control system controlling said computer controlled system including:
an instructor's seat in a dedicated over-the-shoulder observation position relative to the at least one training position for allowing an instructor to view the training scenario and the actions of said at least one trainee;
a display support structure attached to said instructor's seat; and
a display assembly including a flat panel display embedded in an integral work surface and providing display and switch functions required to provide instructor input to said computer controlled system, said display assembly being attached to said support structure by a hinge means for allowing said display assembly to be rotated 90° to a vertical position to allow ingress and egress from the instructor's seat, said display assembly providing an instructor interface with said computer controlled system for controlling and monitoring a training scenario without obstructing the over-the-shoulder observation of the training scenario and actions of the at least one trainee.
2. The simulator training system as recited in claim 1 wherein said integral work surface is formed by a clear plastic overlay of said flat panel display.

3. The simulator training system as recited in claim 1 wherein said flat panel display is a liquid crystal display.

4. The simulator training system as recited in claim 1 wherein said flat panel display is a gas plasma display.

5. The simulator training system recited in claim 1 wherein said display assembly is lockable in said vertical position and further comprising damper means for preventing said display assembly from rotating to a horizontal position so as to damage the display assembly.

6. The simulator training system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a bezel surrounding said flat panel display and a plurality of push button switches embedded in said bezel, said push button switches being programmable to have different functions when the display changes.

7. The simulator training system as recited in claim 1 wherein said display assembly includes two flat panel displays, each of said flat panel displays being surrounded with a bezel, further comprising a plurality of push button switches embedded in the bezel of each of said flat panel displays, said push button switches being programmable to have different functions when the display changes.

8. The simulator training system as recited in claim 7 wherein each of said flat panel displays are gas panel displays.

9. The simulator training system as recited in claim 7 wherein each of said flat panel displays are liquid crystal displays.

10. The simulator training system as recited in claim 1 wherein said flat panel display is a touch screen display.

11. The simulator training system as recited in claim 10 further comprising a bezel surrounding said flat panel display and a plurality of push button switches embedded in said bezel, said push button switches being programmable to have different functions when the display changes.

12. The simulator training system as recited in claim 1 further comprising slewing means for allowing control of a displayed indicator and selection of displayed options and commands.

13. The simulator training system as recited in claim 1 wherein said computer controlled system includes a computer image generation subsystem for providing realistic imagery on a screen to present said training scenario.

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